



THE PHYSICIAN'S *Bookshelf*

IMMUNITY—Second Edition—Sidney Raffel, Sc.D., M.D., Professor, Department of Medical Microbiology, Stanford University School of Medicine. Appleton-Century-Crofts, Inc., 35 West 32nd Street, New York 1, N. Y., 1961. 646 pages, \$10.00.

The field of immunology covers a prodigious range: From the traditional considerations of resistance to infection to graft rejection and its complex genetic basis. In bringing his book up to date, seven years after the first edition, Dr. Raffel has, once again, very carefully scanned the field and consulted several thousand references. After carefully compiling divergent information in each major area, he thoughtfully proceeds to analyze agreements and discrepancies in order to formulate general principles. The reader who "sticks with him" through the descriptions of complex observations or experiments will be rewarded by a well-balanced insight.

The scope of the book is very large. Anyone puzzled by a question relating to hypersensitivity, immunity, antibodies and a host of other subjects will find some well-considered statement and some specific reference to help him arrive at an answer. This, perhaps, is the book's major merit, and it must be hoped that every hospital library will provide a copy to settle questions and arguments. In the four major sections—fundamental aspects of immunity, hypersensitivity, mechanisms of resistance in various infectious diseases, serology and antigenic systems—every physician will find something of special interest to him, some stimulating thought, some new point of view.

ERNEST JAWETZ, M.D.

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MAN AND SEX—A Practical Manual of Sexual Knowledge—Joseph J. Kaufman, M.D., and Griffith Borgeson. Simon and Schuster, publishers, 630 Fifth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York 20, N. Y., 1961. 254 pages, \$3.95.

This small volume is designed primarily for the instruction of the adult male reader disturbed about the problems of sexual activity. It will, however, appeal also to his feminine counterpart, who will find within its pages an explanation of many of the phenomena of sex that have so frequently disturbed and puzzled her.

It is a delightfully concise and sensible presentation, with nothing of the pornographic or sensual. The author decries too much elaborate discussion of sexual techniques as such, suggesting that "somewhere along the line we seem to have forgotten that sex is better when it is spontaneous than when it's self-conscious, more satisfying when it's improvised than when it's memorized." Probably this sentence appeals the more strongly to this reviewer because it states so succinctly his own conviction that the technique of sexual activity, though performed properly by the copy-book, will never be sufficient to adequately guarantee a completely satisfactory relationship between man and woman.

In addition to the chapters on the psychology and pleasures of sex, the author also discusses without fanfare the several sexual problems which so often obsess the male patient—impotence, infertility, masturbation, contraception,

and others. In all of these he displays a rational conservative approach, carefully avoiding sensational pronouncements, and his attitude cannot fail to be a comfort to the unfortunate individual disturbed by one of these worries.

The chapter on "The Male as a Parent" is so excellent that it should be recommended to any father, for it contains many things that need very badly to be said.

The last section of the book includes chapters on venereal disease, on the various types of prostate disturbances, including an unusually fair comparison of the several types of prostatic surgery, and a final chapter on the many relatively minor and less common diseases of the male genitalia. Here, as elsewhere, the statements and terminology are made as simple as possible, but even so they may be, in the judgment of this reviewer, a little beyond the understanding of the average lay reader. This is almost a universal problem in trying to explain medical problems to the nonprofessional reader, and this attempt is rather better than usual.

The book is, without doubt, the most simple, sensible, and accurate presentation of this intricate and fascinating subject we have seen. It is a fine effort to break down old-fashioned sexual fetishes and place the whole matter on a rational basis. The doctor will find it an excellent basis for discussions with worried patients, and for the layman, while it may not make the whole matter crystal clear, it may be safely recommended, for it will not produce any false ideas or unfortunate prejudices.

LYLE G. CRAIG, M.D.

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MEDICAL PHYSIOLOGY—Eleventh Edition—Edited by Philip Bard, Professor of Physiology, The Johns Hopkins University. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, Mo., 1961, 1339 pages, \$16.50.

The eleventh edition of Bard's textbook represents a tremendous improvement over the tenth edition, which finally reached the profession in 1956. An interval of more than ten years had elapsed since its previous edition. Many of the sections, written for an expected publication date of 1944 to 1945, were hopelessly out of date and had to be made ready for publication by the editor rather than the original author. In many cases the attempted modernization of these sections by the editor-in-chief was far from successful.

In marked contrast, the present volume is a sparkling example of up-to-date treatment of nearly all of the sections. The organization of the book is well suited to its purpose—"to present that part of physiology which is of special concern to the medical student, the practitioner of medicine and the medical scientist . . ." The sections by new contributors in the fields of electrophysiology, respiration, the heart, endocrinology, muscular contraction and muscular exercise are particularly well done, with emphasis on examples of physiological integration and a tactful simplification of mathematical analyses. Material on the modern physiology of respiration, kidney function and endocrinology is as nearly up to date as these active fields permit. It is clearly presented in a form that should meet the needs of medical students and physicians.